

REMARKS

Claims 7, 10 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,621,550) in view of Manabe et al. (JP 11-095221), Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,729,318) and Sasaki (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0027529). Claims 8, 11-12, and 18-19 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arikawa, Sasaki, and other references. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections because Sasaki is not prior art.

In Response B filed January 3, 2006, Applicant enclosed a verified English translation of Japanese Priority Document Number 2002-345543. The certified copy of the document was filed on November 28, 2002 in Japan. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in view of the perfection of the foreign priority date of November 28, 2002.

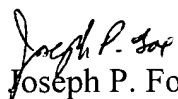
Sasaki has a U.S. filing date of May 28, 2003. The foreign priority reference of the present application has a filing date of November 28, 2002. Thus, the foreign priority date of the present invention is earlier than the United States filing date of Sasaki. As a claim for foreign priority has been perfected with the filing of the verified translation, Applicant respectfully requests that the §103(a) rejections of claims 7-8, 10-12, and 17-19 be withdrawn (See MPEP 201.15).

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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